

**Minutes of the Second
SARDP 2025-2026 Council Meeting
August 10th, 2026**

Attendance:

Bridget Anderson – Councillor
Orlaith Briggs – Councillor
Sage Huard – Vice President External
Merissa Hughes – Councillor
Mitchell Hummel – Councillor
Samuel Johannson – President

Enricka Julien – Councillor
Gerald Nel – Vice President Academic
Anne Marie Watson – Chairperson
Elizabeth Sweiger – Executive Director
Marie Evangelista – Assistant Executive Director
Marian Young – Secretary

Absent without notice:

Donald Allen – Councillor
Gift Udeme – Councillor

Council Recessed:

5:37pm – 5:47pm

2.0 Call to Order

The Meeting is called to order at 4:41pm

2.1 Land Acknowledgment – Vice President Nel

2.2 Approval of Agenda

26-27-8-C

Hughes, Hummel

MOTION: Motion to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

2.3 Executive Oath of Office

Gerald Nel took his oath of office as he was not present at the first Council Meeting.

2.4 Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.4.1 Approval of 2025 - 2026 1st Council Meeting Minutes

26-27-9-C

Hughes, Nel

MOTION: Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of the 1st 2026 – 2027 Council Meeting.

CARRIED

2.4.2 Approval of 2026 - 2026 5th – 9th Executive Council Meeting Minutes

26-27-10-C

Anderson, Hughes

MOTION: Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes of the 5th – 9th 2026 - 2027

Executive Council Meetings.
CARRIED

2.5 New Business

2.5.1 2026 – 2027 Association Budget

This item will return to the third 2026 – 2027 Council meeting for approval.

2.5.1 2026 – 2027 Executive Work Plan

This item will return to the third 2026 – 2027 Council meeting for approval.

2.6 Executive Council, Council Committee and Other Reports

2.6.1 Executive Council Reports

President

Vice President Academic

Vice President External

Executive Director – Verbal Report

Staff & Hiring

- Hiring is underway for frontline staff, including Lift, Far Side Grill, and Street Team positions.
- Frontline staff and the Health & Dental Administrator will attend training on the new Student Wellness Program launching in September 2026.

Student Wellness Program

- New online counselling service will be included in the Student Health Plan.
- Students will receive up to 8 counselling sessions per specific issue at no additional cost.
- Access will be available to students enrolled in the Health Plan; students who opt out will not have access.
- Staff training will ensure they can assist students with accessing and navigating the program.
- The initiative is intended to complement RDP Counselling Services and help alleviate current demand.

Audit & Budget

- Annual audit is complete; feedback has been provided on the draft.
- Final audit report is expected shortly and will be presented to Council, with the auditor anticipated to attend in late September or early October.
- Budget is currently in draft form and with Council for review.

Peer Support Program

- A Peer Support Coordinator joined staff effective June 1.
- Work is underway to develop the program structure, training, procedures, and response protocols.

Member Engagement & Events

- Planning is underway for September Orientation and regular annual events.
- The Member Engagement Team is coordinating mental health events, Indigenous Services initiatives, anti-bullying campaigns, and other campus programming.
- Pop-up events for students are also being planned.
- The Association received a large donation of period products from the Red Deer Food Bank. Products will be made available in all washrooms across campus throughout the year.

26-27-11-C

Anderson, Hummel

MOTION: Motion to accept the Executive Council Reports as presented.

CARRIED

2.7 Information

2.8 Adjournment

26-27-12-C

Anderson, Hughes

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 6:17pm

CARRIED



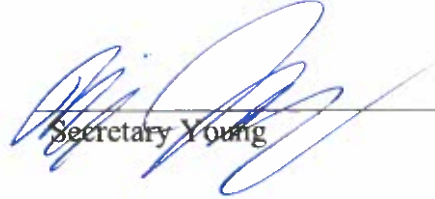
President Johannson



Executive Director Sweiger



Chairperson Watson



Secretary Young



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President's Office

Reporting Period: June 10th – August 4th, 2026

Lunch with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT)

Wednesday, June 10th, 2026

In attendance: Vice President External Huard, Vice President Academic Nel, RDP President Stuart Cullum, Vice Presidents Lindsay Engel & Jim Brinkhurst, and Chief of Staff Laurel Corbiere.

Our executive team had an introductory lunch with most of the members of RDP's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) in the Farside. This was an opportunity for the new team to get familiar with RDP's senior leadership and to discuss the year ahead. We discussed the priorities of both the Students' Association and RDP in external advocacy, in particular as it relates to the upcoming changes to the post-secondary system stemming from the recommendations of the Mintz Panel.

The Mintz Panel contains many recommendations that can be viewed as positive from the perspectives of both the institution and students. However, the panel's report leaves many details of their recommendations ambiguous and opaque, with significant room for interpretation. We discussed with ELT how continued consultation with institutions and students will be essential to ensure that the Mintz Panel's recommendations are effectively implemented.

Trades Completion Breakfast

Wednesday June 17th, 2026

Vice President External Huard and I attended the first Trades Completion Breakfast during our current executive term. These breakfasts, hosted in the Farside, are opportunities for Trades Students to be celebrated as they complete their programs. While Trades Students can attend Convocation, the timing of that ceremony does not make doing so convenient. This breakfast was attended by approximately 50 students, members of faculty, the Board of Governors, and the Alumni Association's Board.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President's Office

Meeting with Trish Nuyten

Monday, June 22nd, 2026

Vice President Huard, Vice President Nel, and I met with Trish Nuyten, RDP's Dean of Enrollment Management & Registrar. This introductory meeting was an opportunity for the team to get more familiar with the roles & responsibilities of the Registrar as it relates to Academic Policy & Procedure. We also discussed the upcoming year, in particular the current status of the ongoing revision of RDP's Work Integrated Learning (WIL) policy.

Meeting with Kristine Plastow

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026

Vice President Huard and I met with Kristine Plastow, RDP's Associate Vice President Student Experience. We discussed how the recent organizational changes to RDP were progressing and how the Institution was preparing to address potential issues arising from these changes. One big change was the unfortunate news that RDP's Health & Wellness Centre is being closed for budgetary reasons. We expressed our concern at this decision and discussed how certain functions of the Campus Health & Wellness Centre would continue. Second were the changes made to the Counseling Services department. The planned changes for the upcoming year will shift the Counseling Services to have a model with mostly drop-in time and few appointments.

Meeting with Indigenous Initiatives

Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

Vice President Huard and I met with staff from the Indigenous Initiatives department, including Dean of Indigenous Initiatives, Lloyd Desjarlais. This meeting was an opportunity to become more familiar with the staff of the department and discuss the year ahead. The department plans to shift its focus more onto supports for Indigenous Students and reduce the number of events hosted. We also had an opportunity to learn more about ongoing indigenization efforts underway to implement RDP's Reconcili-Action plan, in particular as it relates to indigenization of Academic Programming.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President's Office

Workplan Development

Friday, June 26th, 2026

Vice President Huard, Vice President Nel, and I worked with Martin Cruz to develop our workplans for the upcoming year. We had met previously with Governance and Student Support Coordinator Young to prepare for this meeting. This meeting was an incredibly valuable opportunity to discuss and plan our major goals for the year, informed by the platforms we campaigned on and the Association's Advocacy goals. We discussed the goals themselves, what we wanted to concretely achieve, and what metrics we could utilize to measure our progress throughout the year and demonstrate progress to Council.

ASEC Advocacy Intensive

Tuesday June 30th – Wednesday July 1st, 2026

Vice President Nel and I attended ASEC's Advocacy Intensive session ahead of a large series of Government Relations & networking events occurring the following week during the Calgary Stampede. This covered the evening of Tuesday and most of the day on Wednesday. Sessions during the intensive included:

- Overviews of ASEC's Advocacy priorities, and specific details on our asks for the government & the associated context.
- Presentations on how advocacy works, and how to utilize your understanding of the current political situation to ensure that you are advocating effectively on behalf of your members.
- Practicing Networking & engaging politicians in both advocacy meetings and at more informal social gatherings.
- Memorizing important political figures and their faces.

These sessions were useful in preparing us for the upcoming Stampede events and also provided useful knowledge and advice for future advocacy efforts at each ASEC member school.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President's Office

Stampede Events

Thursday July 2nd – Friday July 3rd, 2026

Vice President Nel and I attended seven Stampede events over the course of two days. These events ranged from breakfasts put on by political organizations to networking events hosted by law firms and government relations companies.

During this time, we met and spoke with many politicians, including:

Myles McDougall, Minister of Advanced Education
Peter Singh, MLA for Calgary-East
Nolan Dyck, MLA for Grande Prairie
Naheed Nenshi, Leader of the Official Opposition in Alberta
Heather McPherson, MP for Edmonton-Strathcona
Rakhi Pancholi, MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud
Searle Turton, Minister for Children and Family Services, MLA for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain
Corey Hogan, MP for Calgary Confederation
Jasraj Hallan, MP for Calgary-East
Julia Hayter, MLA for Calgary-Edgemont
Amanda Chapman, MLA for Calgary-Beddington
Kyle Kaswaski, MLA for Sherwood Park
Samir Kayande, MLA for Calgary-Elbow
Dr. Luanne Metz, MLA for Calgary-Varsity

These conversations varied in length and content, with some conversations being more in-depth and focused on the Association's advocacy priorities. Generally, politicians are not interested in in-depth policy discussions at Stampede events. The goal of networking with politicians is to make introductions & connections with the hope that these will facilitate future advocacy meetings and efforts.

Alumo Summit

Monday, July 6th – Thursday, July 9th, 2026

Assistant Executive Director Evangelista and I attended the inaugural Alumo Summit in Quebec. This conference was hosted by our health insurance broker, Alumo. Sessions during the conference included discussions about the latest developments in the post-



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President's Office

secondary sector as it relates to student insurance plans, a panel from former student leaders about how their experience influenced their future career paths, and the importance of advocacy.

Assistant Executive Director Evangelista and I also met with Ali Versi, our point person with Alumo, to discuss some of our thoughts on how things have been going with our plans and any feedback we might have. As our Health Insurance is strictly operational, my comments were somewhat limited, but I did convey some feedback I'd heard from students concerning the recently unsuccessful referendum.

Another notable event was the Alumo Summit Challenge. Alumo recently created a new program called the Student Impact Fund, which will fund student-led projects at Alumo partner schools across the nation. At this conference, there was a challenge for different teams of student leaders to create a project to improve student wellness on campus in about 20 minutes. The winning team would win a prize of \$5,000 to be split between the Student Organizations the students represent. I am happy to say that alongside my colleagues from the Students' Association of Lakeland College and the University of Alberta Students' Union, we won this challenge, winning \$2,000 for the Students' Association. Our idea was the creation of anonymous lockers that would be used to distribute items such as food bank hampers. This would hopefully help students access emergency supports without the stigma that is sometimes associated with accessing these supports.

Time Off

July 13th – July 17th, and July 22nd – 28th, 2026

Meeting with Kristine Plastow

July 21st, 2026

Vice President Nel and I met with Associate Vice President Student Experience Kristine Plastow. This meeting was somewhat shorter, as July is generally a quiet month. One update was that students in Health Programs will now be required to pay a \$64 fee for their immunization checks, which were previously done at the Health Centre. This will begin in the Spring 2027 semester.



Executive report June 19 – Aug 4

- **Academic council. (June 19)**

This past academic council, held on June 19, was the second to last Academic Council of its yearly cycle. Most of the topics at that was brought to the table was around program changes, new policy changes, and amendments that was brought up in the previous Council meeting, but only passed after there was wording edits made. The program changes and developments made was within Psychology, Biology, and the proposal of a new course. The Psychology program had work integrated learning added to its curriculum in the form of a co-op where students of both BA and BSc can work in a nonclinical work placement that will help them gain valuable work experience in the field. The co-op has the addition of a course that needs to be taken before hand, and the work done in the word placement will have to be done in three consecutive terms. This means that students who does this will have to do an additional year in their program.

The Multidisciplinary degree had major changes made and also had the integration of a co-op, similar the that of the Psychology program. One of the major changes made to the program was that it will now be referred to as the Interdisciplinary degree that will help communicate what the program is about a bit better. A new program has been developed that will be the first in Alberta. The program will be a Trade Teacher Certificate that will be in effect Fall 2026.

There were changes made to existing policy farmwork in the Admission to Credit Program Policy. The most substantial changes in the policy will be that students can, by policy, no longer take more that six courses in an academic term. Students will also not be able to take a course for a third time without the approval of a dean after presenting justification on why they feel they will be able to pass the course after the third time when not succeeding the first two times.

Changes were made in the contact hours of the ENGG 1230 Engineering Statics that now aligns with that of the other institutions and the



curriculum. The biology program had substantial changes made to it. The changes were small, but there was a lot of them. It included changes to the names of programs, changes to the description of courses, and a second-year course (BIOL 2370) to a third-year course (BIOL 3370) as well as a change to its prerequisites that is now a C- that will align with other third year courses. Other than this, motions that was deferred is the previous Academic Council was passed after some wording was changed. It was a smooth and easy meeting without much debate, but the overall attendance was low.

- **Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer. (June 24)**

One of the core initiatives is for students to be able to navigate the web page in an effective way to ensure that they know where their credits are recognized. The credits that will be recognized will change to a degree in the near future as they are working towards expanding what is recognized as credentials between institutions. Some of a student leaders have noted that they have heard from other student that they are concerned about having their credits recognized. Withing the scope of recognized credentials, the transfer mandate is working towards including micro credentials. Other than that, a one-million-dollar budget have been approved that will span over the next year, that will aide in the development of the transfer mandate and their initiatives, but it has been noted that only some institutions will be getting funding from the transfer mandate, and that at this time they are working with a three-year plan.

- **Stampede (July 1- 3)**

Stampede was a great experience. The ASEC training was well thought through and helped prepare us as well for the advocacy that was to come. We went to various events over the span of two days. We met with various different politicians and advocated our core priorities while making ourselves



know and getting to know the political landscape. We met with representatives from both the UCP and the Alberta NDP. It was only me and Sam that went to these events along with other student leaders, but I believe that we advocated, and communicated well. We receive a wide range of attention, and I truly believe that between the two of us we had our voices heard on behalf of the RDP student body.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President External Huard's Office

Reporting Period: June 11th – August 4th

Post-Secondary Accessibility and Disability Resource Association of Alberta (PADRA) Conference/All General Meeting- June 16th

While this was a personal opportunity to bring the student perspective to post-secondary disability and accommodation systems, and while I was explicitly pulling from my perspective outside of student governance, I still thought it prevalent to share with council. Of the events there the student panel is of the most note, in which students brought forward their perspectives as users of assistive technology, participants of a capitalist and certification-based post-secondary education, long-time learners, and the people who are some of the first to feel the consequences of system failings. Overall, the tone was that communication, methodologies, agency/autonomy, and capacity for everyone involved in navigating disability within post-secondary (students, faculty, accommodation staff, the provincial gov't) was lacking. However, there was also hopeful aspirations, including new, student-developed assistive tech, new avenues of communication, and larger conversations surrounding disabled students in research, universal learning design, course outline development, and strong emphasis on providing students all the information to make informed decisions on their ability to be accommodated. The participants left with larger networks, new ideas, greater clarity on problems, and a stronger desire to collaborate.

Meeting w/ David Eggen- June 18th

I, Sam, and Gerald met with David Eggen, the Shadow Minister of Advanced Education and MLA for Edmonton-North West. His role as Shadow Minister is to critique and be critical of the current Ministry of Advanced Education, and has been designated this role from his party, the official opposition, the New Democratic Party (NDP). We brought up our advocacy goals for the upcoming academic year, including Operational Grant Funding (especially through the lens of the Mintz Panel), Open Educational Resources (OERs), and Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and its related costs. Mr. Eggen took note of each, but especially regarding successful frameworks of OERs and WIL as an avenue to further drive enrollment. Enrollment into post-secondary education in Central Alberta was especially of importance to him, as he cited it was quite low and wanted to investigate where the issue stemmed from and seek solutions. He purported that the funding model was the most important aspect of the Mintz Panel, as well as the NDPs campaign to fund education further than the current gov't. We also inquired about the



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President External Huard's Office

prospect of there being 'Institutional Neutrality' legislation being added to the Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), and we were told he hadn't heard anything regarding it. We later learned of the Alberta gov'ts plan to pursue this legislation at Student Leader Orientation (SLO).

Visit to Baitun Nur Mosque- June 18th

As part of our long-standing relationship with the Ahmadiyya at the Baitun Nur Mosque in Calgary, I, Gerald, Sam, and Carrie Dennet went to initiate our core conversations surrounding the World Religion Conference, make our introductions as new student leaders, as well as eat dinner and tour their facilities. Our conversations especially involved continuity and historical memory, of which has been degraded, especially regarding the yearly turnover of student leaders here at SARDP. Solutions to these issues included the proposition for an internal event manual, as well as a document outlining the history of the event as a whole. It was also established there would be four speakers this year, to leave more time for the question-and-answer period. Other topics of importance included the plan to develop a more robust plan to market and involve students in the process of the event, especially earlier in the year, as well as additional RDP staff included in the event process overall.

Student Leader Orientation- June 19th

As both Vice-Chair of ASEC (Alberta Student Executive Council) and Executives at SARDP, Sam and I went to Student Leader Orientation. This is an event that is held by Advanced Education and their Engagement team, and it gives an opportunity for student leaders to directly ask questions to both Minister McDougall of Advanced Education and the Advanced Education Ministry as a whole, receive updates on their affairs, as well as to have discussions and give feedback to one another. There, I presented ASEC's three asks for the year alongside Rylee Mae, Chairperson of ASEC, as well as represent SARDP with Sam in providing questions that relate to our student body, such as considerations for funding for Work-Integrated Learning travel expenses, legislation regarding Institutional Neutrality and how students are being consulted in its implementation, and students with disabilities being provided accommodation in timely and appropriate manners considering background and education stream. One of the biggest discussions revolved around the new Tuition Framework and the Mintz Panel, which was conveyed that implementation will begin by the next budget year for Alberta, which begins April 1st, 2027, with earliest impact being seen in Fall 2027. Of most note is that funding and tuition models will be based on cohorts, different buckets of programs separated by different factors such as labour market demand, enrolment, and gov't priorities, which was outlined in the Mintz



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President External Huard's Office

panel, but was explicitly stated that it will be implemented by the Ministry. Overall, this was an opportunity in which we not only connected with the Ministry, but other student leaders to gain a more robust understanding of each other's priorities and relationships with Alberta's government.

Meeting w/ Burton Bailey- June 25th

Gerald, Sam, and I met with Burton Bailey, Red Deer's Member of Parliament, to speak about SARDP's advocacy goals and strengthen our connection to him as a new incoming Executive. While we spoke to each of our advocacy goals, Mr. Bailey was most receptive to our third, regarding Work-Integrated Learning. To this extent, he was sympathetic to the additional costs of WIL currently and the additional costs associated with Alberta's 2030 plan to have all post-secondary students participate in WIL. He provided some suggestions other than direct funding, such as tax compensation for related costs and workplaces compensating a certain percentage of costs through a stipend. We also brought up concerns we had heard from our Indigenous Student Services Team regarding ISSSP, regarding its distribution timeline and the need for more consistent and stable grants not just for students, but for Indigenous Services Teams and the invaluable work they do. Overall, our meeting with Mr. Bailey was met with support, and a strong relationship in which he expressed interest in hearing more from us in the future.

Meeting w/ Adriana LaGrange- July 31st

Sam, Gerald and I met with Minister LaGrange, MLA for Red Deer North as well as Minister of Hospital and Surgical Services, to convey our advocacy priorities as well as strengthen our relationship with her as a new Executive. Overall, the meeting went well, and our advocacy priorities were provided to the Minister with tangible examples of consequences, such as a lack of stable operational grant funding causing certain post-secondary supports to be unsustainable, such as RDP's health centre, or the data provided from RDP students concerning rising textbook costs and the choice between educational resources and food and housing security. Minister Lagrange provided feedback on our asks considering the state of Alberta's government and ability to additionally fund post-secondary institutions, which we took note of.



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President External Huard's Office

ASEC Update- Reporting Period

Currently, ASEC is at a time when it is going through several transitions, to find a new Executive Director and reconsider its role and responsibilities, a needed by-election for two spots for Board of Directors, as well as the time in which many pieces of core advocacy occur alongside ASEC's audit. During this period of July, while I was stretching my time between SHAD's summer camp, ASEC, and SARDP's duties, I mainly focused on providing support to Rylee Mae, Chairperson of ASEC, regarding interim Executive Director duties as they relate to financial matters. This includes ensuring monthly payments are made such as office space rental costs, software subscriptions, etc., while also managing invoices and other matters with ASEC's bookkeeper. I also held meetings with Board of Director members, to manage those relationships and strengthen our team overall. Extending my biggest thanks to Marian Young and Jason Roth, our ASEC staff advisors, who have greatly helped during this time.

SHAD and July- Reporting Period

For the sake of transparency, a motion was made and passed at Executive council, on August 4th 2026, to provide my pay in full for the month of July. This decision was made by the observations of my team and staff members, who saw that my work over the month equaled to the hourly I could have been doing at the office, and that banked overtime hours also contributed to this. I cannot thank my team enough for recognizing the work I contributed during this very busy month and will continue to put in my full effort to properly represent my membership. SHAD was an amazing opportunity, and I am so glad SARDP made the space for me to participate in it. It has impacted me more greatly than I can describe and has opened more doorways for me to be successful in future endeavors.